

## 1 CORINTHIANS – Chapter 9

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### I. PAUL, A GENUINE APOSTLE, vv. 1-3.

- A. Paul asks 4 questions that expect an affirmative answer, vs. 1.
- B. Even if Paul was not an apostle to others, there was no logical way the Corinthians could question his apostleship.
  - 1. “the seal of mine apostleship...” – He had established the congregation there and had bestowed spiritual gifts. *Cf. Acts 18:1ff; 2 Corinthians 12:12.*
- C. Yet, some were questioning Paul’s apostleship, vs. 3.

### II. PAUL HAD A RIGHT TO THEIR SUPPORT, vv. 4-14.

- A. Paul had the right to support for the necessities of life (vs. 4), and enough support for a wife and family that might accompany him (vs. 5).
  - 1. “as well as other apostles” – Paul classifies himself as one of them.
  - 2. “brethren of the Lord” – Jesus’ half- brothers. See Matthew 13:55.
  - 3. Cephas – Peter. Note he was married. *Possibly mentioned separate from the “other apostles” because he was known by the Corinthian church.*
- B. Paul, as well as Barnabas, had the right to be supported by the church, vs. 6.
- C. Paul illustrates that a person has the right to support in other areas of life, vs. 7.
- D. The same principle was also recognized under the Jewish dispensation, vv. 8-10.
- E. Paul had a right to be financially supported by those to whom he preached, vs. 11-12.
- F. Priest of the temple were supported from the temple, vs. 13. *Cf. Deuteronomy 18:1ff; Leviticus 6:14-18, 24-26; 7:1ff, 10:12-15; Numbers 18:8-13.*
- G. Not only a principle of the Jewish Law, but was commanded by the Lord, vs. 14. *Cf. Matthew 10:10; Luke 10:7.*

### III. PAUL DID NOT EXERCISE HIS RIGHT, vv. 15-22.

- A. Paul did not claim his right of support; neither was he making an appeal for support, vs. 15.
  - 1. “make my glorying void” – Preaching without pay.
- B. Paul did not seek glory in preaching the Gospel. He did this willingly due to his devotion to it, vs. 16. *Cf. Luke 9:62; Acts 4:20; Colossians 4:17.*
- C. Whether Paul forgoes support (willingly) or if he surrendered his support involuntarily (against my will) his obligation to preach was the same, vv. 17-18.
- D. Paul yielded his rights for the good of the lost, whether Jew, Gentile, or weak vv. 19-22a.
- E. Paul’s desire: “that I might by all means save some”, vs. 22b.

### IV. PAUL’S PURPOSE IN HIS ACTIONS, vv. 23-27.

- A. Not only did Paul give up liberty to save others, but so acted that he might save himself, vs. 23.
- B. Runners gave up certain “rights” to obtain a corruptible crown. Christians strive to obtain an incorruptible crown, vv. 24-25. *Cf. 2 Timothy 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4; Revelation 2:10, 3:11, 4:4.*
- C. Paul run the race, not aimlessly but purposefully, lest he should be a castaway, vv. 26-27.